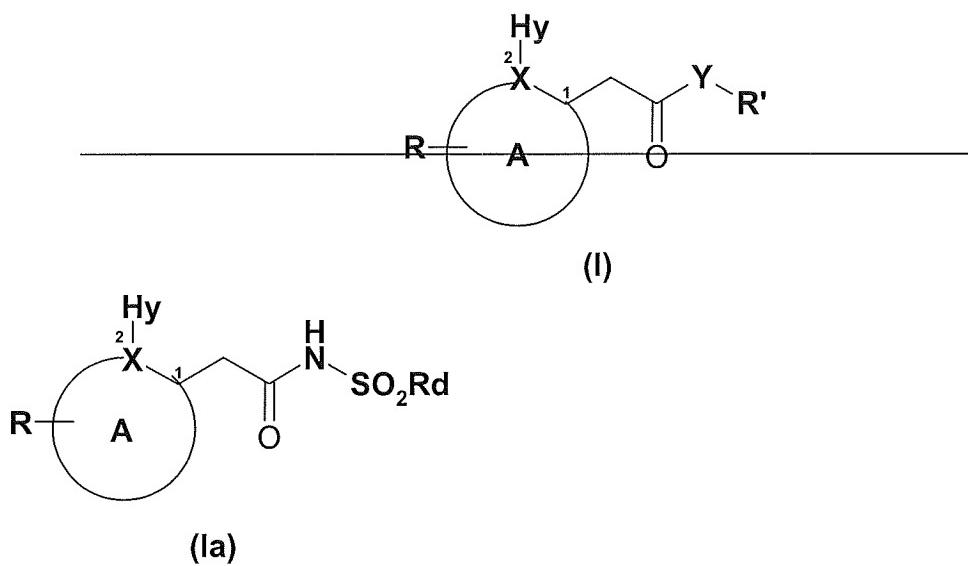


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of treatment of psoriasis, ulcerative colitis, melanoma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), bullous pemphigoid, rheumatoid arthritis, idiopathic fibrosis, glomerulonephritis and in the treatment of damages caused by reperfusion after ischemia comprising administering a compound of formula (Ia):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

A is selected from benzene, naphthalene, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrrole, imidazole, furane, thiophene, indole and 7-aza-indole and labels 1 and 2 mark the relevant positions on the A ring;

the X atom is selected from N (nitrogen) and C (carbon);

R is a substituting group on the A ring selected from:

- a group in the 3 position selected from a linear or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₂-C₅-alkenyl or C₂-C₅-alkynyl group, substituted or not-substituted phenyl, linear or branched C₁-C₅ hydroxyalkyl, C₂-C₅-acyl, substituted or not-substituted benzoyl;
- a group in the 4 position selected from C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₂-C₅-alkenyl or C₂-C₅-alkynyl group, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₅-acyloxy, substituted or not-substituted benzyloxy, C₁-C₅-acylamino, substituted or not-substituted benzoylamino, C₁-C₅-sulfonyloxy, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonyloxy, C₁-C₅-alkanesulfonylamino, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonylamino, C₁-C₅-alkanesulfonylmethyl, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonylmethyl, 2-furyl; 3-tetrahydrofuryl; 2 thiophenyl; 2-tetrahydrothiophenyl groups or a C₁-C₈-alkanoyl, cycloalkanoyl or arylalkanoyl-C₁-C₅-alkylamino group;

Hy is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, chlorine, bromine, methoxy and trifluoromethyla small hydrophobic group with a Charton steric constant ν ranging between 0.5 and 0.9 Å;

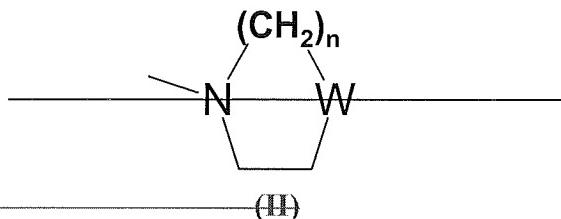
the Y group is selected from O (oxygen) and NH;

when Y is O (oxygen), R' is H (hydrogen);

when Y is NH, R' is selected from

- H, C₁-C₅-alkyl, [[C₁]]C₃-C₅-cycloalkyl, C₄-C₅-alkenyl;
- an amino acid residue consisting of straight or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, [[C₁]]C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₄-C₆-alkenyl, phenylalkyl substituted with one or more carboxy (COOH) groups;

- an amino acid residue consisting of straight or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, [[C₁]]C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₄-C₆-alkenyl, phenylalkyl, bearing along the chain a heteroatom selected from oxygen and sulfur and with one or more carboxy (COOH) groups;
- a residue of formula -CH₂-CH₂-Z-(CH₂-CH₂O)_nR'', wherein R'' is H or C₁-C₅-alkyl, n is an integer from 0 to 2 and Z is oxygen or sulfur;
- a residue of formula -(CH₂)_n-NR_aR_b wherein n is an integer from 0 to 5 and each R_a and R_b, which may be the same or different, are C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₄-C₆-alkenyl or, alternatively, R_a and R_b, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a heterocycle from 3 to 7 members of formula (II)



- wherein W represents a single bond, CH₂, O, S or N-R_e, wherein R_e is H, C₁-C₆-alkyl or C₁-C₆-alkylphenyl;
- a residue OR'', wherein R'' is H, methyl, carboxymethyl;
- a residue of formula SO₂R_d wherein
- R_d is C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₄-C₆-alkenyl or C₂-C₆-alkenyl.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein Y is NH and R' is:
- the amino acid residue of glycine, β -alanine, γ -aminobutyric acid or residues of an L- α -amino acid selected in the group of L-alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, norleucine, phenylalanine, S-methylcysteine, methionine;
 - a residue of formula $\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-(CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{O)}\text{R}''$ wherein R'' is H or $\text{C}_4\text{-}\text{C}_5\text{-alkyl}$;
 - a residue of formula $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-NRaRb}$ wherein n is an integer from 2 to three, more preferably 3, and the group NRaRb is N,N-dimethylamine, N,N-diethylamine, 1-piperidyl, 4-morpholyl, 1-pyrrolidyl, 1-piperazinyl, 1-(4-methyl)piperazinyl;
 - a residue OR'' wherein R'' is H, methyl;
 - a residue of formula SO_2Rd wherein Rd is methyl, ethyl or isopropyl.
5. (Currently Amended) The method according to any of claims 1, 3, or 4, wherein R is 3'-benzoyl, 3'-(4-chloro-benzoyl), 3'-(4-methyl-benzoyl), 3'-acetyl, 3'-propionyl, 3'-isobutanoyl, 3'-ethyl, 3'-isopropyl, 4'-isobutyl, 4'-trifluoromethanesulphonyloxy, 4'-benzenesulphonyloxy, 4'-trifluoromethanesulphonylamino, 4'-benzenesulphonylamino, 4'-benzenesulphonylmethyl, 4'-acetoxy, 4'-propionyloxy, 4'-benzoyloxy, 4'-acetylamino, 4'-propionylamino, 4'-benzoylamino.

6. (Cancelled)

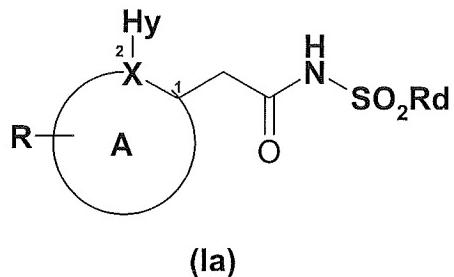
7. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetyl methanesulphonamide,
(4-isobutyl-2-methylphenyl)acetyl methanesulphonamide,
{2-methyl-4-[(trifluoromethanesulphonyl)amino]phenyl} acetyl methanesulphonamide, and
[1-methyl-5-(4-methylbenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-2-yl]acetyl methanesulphonamide.
(3-benzoyl-2-methylphenyl)acetic acid,
(2-chloro-3-propionylphenyl)acetic acid,
(3-isopropyl-2-methylphenyl)acetic acid,
(4-isobutyl-2-methylphenyl)acetic acid,
{2-methyl-4-[(phenylsulphonyl)amino]phenyl}acetic acid,
{2-methyl-4-[(trifluoromethanesulphonyl)amino]phenyl}acetic acid,
{2-chloro-4-[(trifluoromethanesulphonyl)oxy]phenyl}acetic acid,
(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetic acid,
[1-methyl-5-(4-methylbenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-2-yl]acetic acid,
(5-benzoyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetic acid,
[1-methyl-5-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-2-yl]acetic acid,
(5-isobutyryl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetic acid,
(1-benzoyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)acetic acid,
(1-benzoyl-2-chloro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)acetic acid,
(1-benzoyl-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)acetic acid,
[1-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl]acetic acid,

(1-isopropyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole[2,3-b]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acid,
(3-benzoyl-2-methoxyphenyl)acetic acid,
(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetamide,
(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-N-carboxymethylacetamide,
(S)(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-N-(2-carboxyethyl)acetamide,
(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)acetamide,
(S)(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-N-(3-methoxy-2-carboxypropyl)acetamide,
(4-isobutyl-2-methylphenyl)acetamide,
(2-chloro-3-propionylphenyl)-N-(3-dimethylaminoethyl)acetamide,
(3-isopropyl-2-methylphenyl)-N-[3-(1-piperidinyl)propyl]acetamide,
(3-benzoyl-2-methylphenyl)acetamide,
(1-benzoyl-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)acetamide,
(1-benzoyl-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)acetamide,
[1-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl]acetamide,
[1-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-5-methoxy-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl]acetamide,
{2-chloro-4-[(trifluoromethanesulphonyloxy)oxy]phenyl}-N-(2-hydroxyethoxyethyl)acetamide,
(1-benzoyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-N-(2-methoxyethyl)acetamide,
(1-benzoyl-2-chloro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-N-[3-(1-morpholino)propyl]acetamide,
(5-isobutyryl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetamide,
(5-benzoyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-N-(2-carboxymethyl)acetamide,
[1-methyl-5-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-2-yl]-N-(2-hydroxyethoxyethyl)acetamide,
[1-methyl-5-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-2-yl]acetamide,

{2-methyl-4-[(phenylsulphonyl)amino]phenyl}-N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)acetamide, and
(3-benzoyl-2-methoxyphenyl)acetamide.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A compound of formula (Ia)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein :

A is selected from benzene, naphthalene, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrrole, imidazole, furane, thiophene, indole and 7-aza-indole and labels 1 and 2 mark the relevant positions on the A ring;

the X atom is selected from N (nitrogen) and C (carbon);

R is a substituting group on the A ring selected from :

- a group in the 3 position selected from a linear or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₂-C₅-alkenyl or C₂-C₅-alkynyl group, substituted or not-substituted phenyl, linear or branched C₁-C₅ hydroxyalkyl, C₂-C₅-acyl, substituted or not-substituted benzoyl;

- a group in the 4 position selected from C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₂-C₅-alkenyl or C₂-C₅-alkynyl group, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₅-acyloxy, substituted or not-substituted benzyloxy, C₁-C₅-acylamino, substituted or not-substituted benzoylamino, C₁-C₅-sulfonyloxy, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonyloxy, C₁-C₅-alkanesulfonylamino, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonylaminol, C₁-C₅-alkanesulfonylmethyl, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonylmethyl, 2-furyl; 3-tetrahydrofuryl; 2-thiophenyl; 2-tetrahydrothiophenyl groups or a C₁-C₈-alkanoyl, cycloalkanoyl or arylalkanoyl-C₁-C₅-alkylamino group;

Hy is selected from methyl, ethyl, chlorine, bromine, methoxy and trifluoromethyl

Rd is C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₄-C₆-alkenyl C₂-C₆-alkenyl.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The compound according to claim 8, wherein A is selected from benzene, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrrole, imidazole, furane, thiophene and indole;

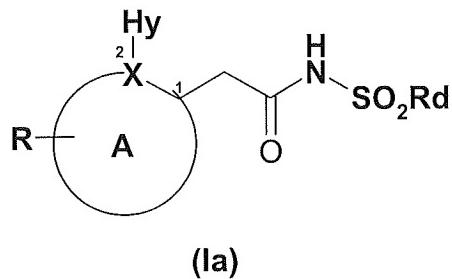
Rd is selected from methyl, ethyl and isopropyl;

Hy is selected from methyl, ethyl, chlorine, bromine, methoxy and trifluoromethyl.

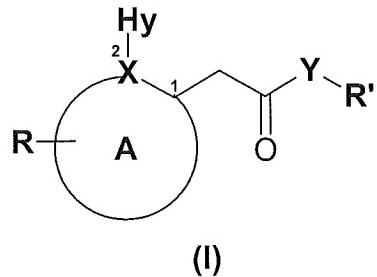
10. **(Previously Presented)** A compound selected from (5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetyl methanesulphonamide, (4-isobutyl-2-methylphenyl)acetyl methanesulphonamide, {2-methyl-4-[{(trifluoromethanesulphonyl)amino]phenyl}acetyl methanesulphonamide, and

[1-methyl-5-(4-methylbenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-2-yl]acetyl methanesulphonamide.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (Ia),



comprising transforming a compound of formula (I),



wherein

A is benzene, naphthalene, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrrole, imidazole, furane, thiophene, indole or 7-aza-indole;

labels 1 and 2 mark the relevant positions on the A ring;

the X atom is selected from N (nitrogen) and C (carbon);

R is a substituting group on the A ring selected from:

- a group in the 3 position selected from a linear or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₂-C₅-alkenyl or C₂-C₅-alkynyl group, substituted or not-substituted phenyl, linear or branched C₁-C₅ hydroxyalkyl, C₂-C₅-acyl, substituted or not-substituted benzoyl;
- a group in the 4 position selected from C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₂-C₅-alkenyl or C₂-C₅-alkynyl group, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₅-acyloxy, substituted or not-substituted benzyloxy, C₁-C₅-acylamino, substituted or not-substituted benzoylamino, C₁-C₅-sulfonyloxy, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonyloxy, C₁-C₅-alkanesulfonylamino, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonylaminol, C₁-C₅-alkanesulfonylmethyl, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonylmethyl, 2-furyl; 3-tetrahydrofuryl; 2 thiophenyl; 2-tetrahydrothiophenyl groups or a C₁-C₈-alkanoyl, cycloalkanoyl or arylalkanoyl-C₁-C₅-alkylamino group;

~~Hy is a small hydrophobic group with a Charton steric constant v ranging between 0.5 and 0.9 Å selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, chlorine, bromine, methoxy and trifluoromethyl; and~~

YR' is OH; to a reactive intermediate, and reacting the intermediate with a compound of formula NH₂SO₂Rd, wherein Rd is C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, or C₁-C₆-alkenylC₂-C₆-alkenyl, in the presence of a suitable base.

12. **(Previously Presented)** Pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound according to claim 8 in admixture with a suitable carrier thereof.

13. **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Cancelled)**

15. **(Cancelled)**

16. **(Previously Presented)** The process of claim 11 wherein said reactive intermediate is an acyl chloride or a benzotriazolyl ester.

17. **(Cancelled)**